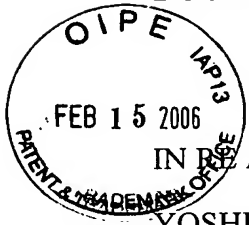


DOCKET NO: 242649US2

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE



IN RE APPLICATION OF :

YOSHIHARU KANDA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: MOONEY, MICHAEL P.

SERIAL NO: 10/660,691 :

FILED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2883

FOR: OPTICAL FIBER AXIAL :  
ALIGNMENT METHOD AND RELATED  
DEVICE, AND OPTICAL FIBER FUSION  
SPlicing METHOD AND RELATED  
DEVICE

**AMENDMENT**

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.